

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

EPA-REGION II  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY &  
REMEDIAL RESPONSE

1984 NOV 20 PM 2:35  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

DATE: November 12, 1984  
TO: C. Daggett, EPA  
W. Librizzi, EPA  
Emergency Response  
Division  
B. Metzger, EPA  
J. Marshall, EPA  
D. Karlen, EPA  
F. Rubel, EPA  
NRC  
USCG 3rd Dist. (mer)  
J. Berkowitz, NJDEP  
J. Rogalski, NJDEP  
M. Sadat, NJDEP  
TAT

Region II  
Response and Prevention Branch  
Edison, New Jersey 08837

(201) 321-6670 - Commercial  
(201) 548-8730 - 24 Hour Emergency  
340-6670 - FTS

POLREP NO.: One (1) and Final  
INCIDENT NAME: DuPont Sulfur Trioxide Release  
SITE/SPILL NO.: 82-85  
POLLUTANT: Sulfur Trioxide (SO<sub>3</sub>)  
CLASSIFICATION: Minor  
SOURCE: DuPont Grasselli Plant  
LOCATION: Linden, New Jersey  
AMOUNT: <10 Gallons of Liquid SO<sub>3</sub>  
WATER BODY: Arthur Kill

1. SITUATION:

A. On November 9, 1984 at 1505 hrs., a release of sulfur trioxide (SO<sub>3</sub>) was reported by the DuPont Grasselli Plant, Linden, New Jersey. The cause was residual SO<sub>3</sub> in a one-inch transfer line that was under repair.

B. The white plume that was formed drifted northwest over to the New Jersey Turnpike. No injuries were reported and the line was secured at 1640 hrs.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. DuPont notified local officials as well as EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, Middlesex County Health Department, and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

B. City of Linden officials advised residents of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> wards to remain indoors. Linden Police notified the Public Service Generating, the Public Service Synthetic, GAF Corp., and Chemical Lehman Tank-Line Plants to keep non-essential personnel indoors.

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C. DuPont Company's Grasselli Plant issued a press release about the incident to the news media and local newspapers. However, it erroneously reported that tests showed no danger to health or environment. In actuality, no testing was conducted.

D. At 1715 hrs., EPA and TAT arrived. They were met by representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, NJDEP, and the Middlesex County Health Department. After exchanging information with plant officials, the group inspected the site of the release which occurred in the plant's Sulfur Dioxide Products area. After noting that all was secure the group departed at approximately 1830 hrs.

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. EPA has requested a follow-up report from the DuPont Grasselli Plant on the cause and remedy of this accidental release.

CASE PENDING       

CASE CLOSED X

SUBMITTED BY

*Peter J. Capitanio*  
Peter Capitanio  
Incident Response  
and Prevention  
Branch

(TAT)

Date Released: 11-14-84